



***de maximis, inc.***

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September 15, 2008

**VIA ELECTRONIC & US MAIL**

Ms. Alice Yeh  
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager  
Emergency and Remedial Response Division  
U.S. EPA, Region 2  
290 Broadway, 19th Floor  
New York, New York 10007

**Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 16 – August 2008  
Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/  
Feasibility Study (RI/FS)  
CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009**

Dear Ms. Yeh:

***de maximis, inc.*** is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement.

**(a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.**

**Meetings/Conference Calls**

- On August 13, CPG and EPA met to discuss: 1) the status of the Low Resolution Coring (LRC) program, including the approval of the field modifications that had been submitted to EPA, and a variety of technical issues including the split sampling protocols; 2) the upcoming bathymetry surveys; 3) the status of the water column monitoring QAPP; 4) the status of the FSP2 comments; 5) the modeling technology transfer activities and 6) the schedule for receipt of EPA comments on the FS Work Plan.

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### **Correspondence**

- CPG corresponded with EPA on a regular basis regarding the Low Resolution Coring field program. Topics included the weekly schedule of field activities, planned coring locations, submittal of field modifications and coordination of EPA oversight.
- On August 1, CPG submitted a draft Feasibility Study Work Plan to EPA.
- On August 5, CPG submitted additional field modification forms, nonconformance form and updated hospital routes for the Health and Safety Plan; all documents are associated with the LRC program activities.
- On August 15, CPG submitted the July monthly progress report to EPA.
- On August 26, CPG submitted a request for further information to EPA to facilitate transfer of LPR/Newark Bay modeling efforts to the CPG.
- On August 27, EPA provided CPG with a draft of the Combined Sewer Overflow and Storm Water Overflow (CSO/SWO) Sampling and Analytical Plan and requested comments by September 26.

### **Work**

- CPG continues work on the LRC field work; 30 locations were completed and 192 samples were processed during the reporting period.
- CPG initiated preparation of a draft UFP-QAPP for additional bathymetry survey work. The scope and approach will be discussed with EPA and finalized for submission in mid-September.
- CPG is currently reviewing the CSO/SWO Sampling and Analysis Plan.
- CPG initiated review and discussion of collection of physical data portion of the water column monitoring task. CPG also had discussions with Tierra Solutions to coordinate the Newark Bay RI/FS portion of the monitoring program.
- CPG is working to update the conceptual site model based upon a revised sediment stability analysis using the most recent bathymetry data collected in the LPRSA as well as existing river gage and mooring data.
- CPG is continuing to transition information to the modeling team of Moffatt & Nichol and Deltares. CPG has transferred modeling files and other data to these firms. Regular communication is occurring among the project team including the modeling firms including web-based presentations on the data.

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**(b) Results of Sampling and Tests**

- There are no results from this reporting period.

**(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion**

- CPG will continue the Low Resolution Coring field work.
- CPG will provide EPA with an update of the bathymetry data that were collected by the CPG in 2007 as well as plans for future bathymetric assessment and will make a presentation of the status of the LRC program during the PDT meeting scheduled for September 10.
- CPG will initiate the secondary data review and planning for the unscoped tasks in FSP Volume 1 including water column, groundwater, and pore water sampling.
- CPG is planning for an October meeting with EPA and PA to review and discuss unscoped tasks in FSP 2 following receipt of FSP 2 comments from EPA.
- CPG will continue work to review and evaluate the Conceptual Site Model as new data are generated in the LPRSA.

**(d) Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.**

As stated above, CPG is not in receipt of EPA's draft FSP 2 response to comments. As a result the CPG is unable to address the stakeholders' comments and schedule an FSP scoping meeting to discuss them. It is CPG's position that the FSP 2 sampling program cannot be finalized until a review of these comments has occurred and a stakeholder scoping meeting has been conducted.

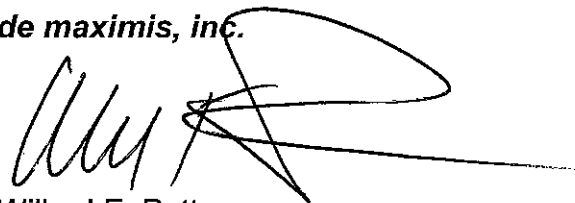
No specific schedule has been identified by EPA and its contractors for transition of the sediment transport numerical model to the CPG modeling team.

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If you have any questions, please contact me or Rob Law at (908) 735-9315.

Very truly yours,

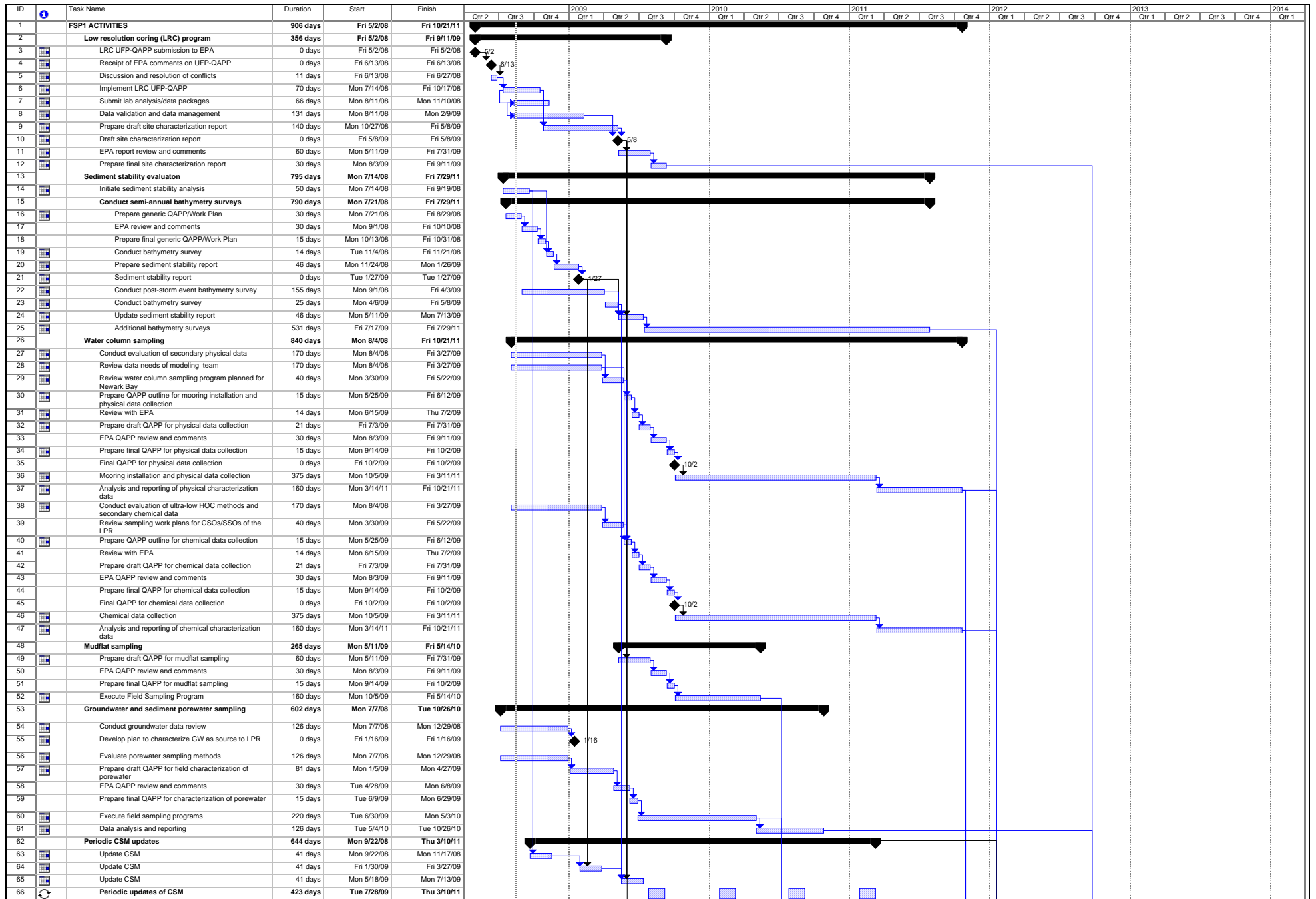
**de maximis, inc.**



Willard F. Potter  
Project Coordinator

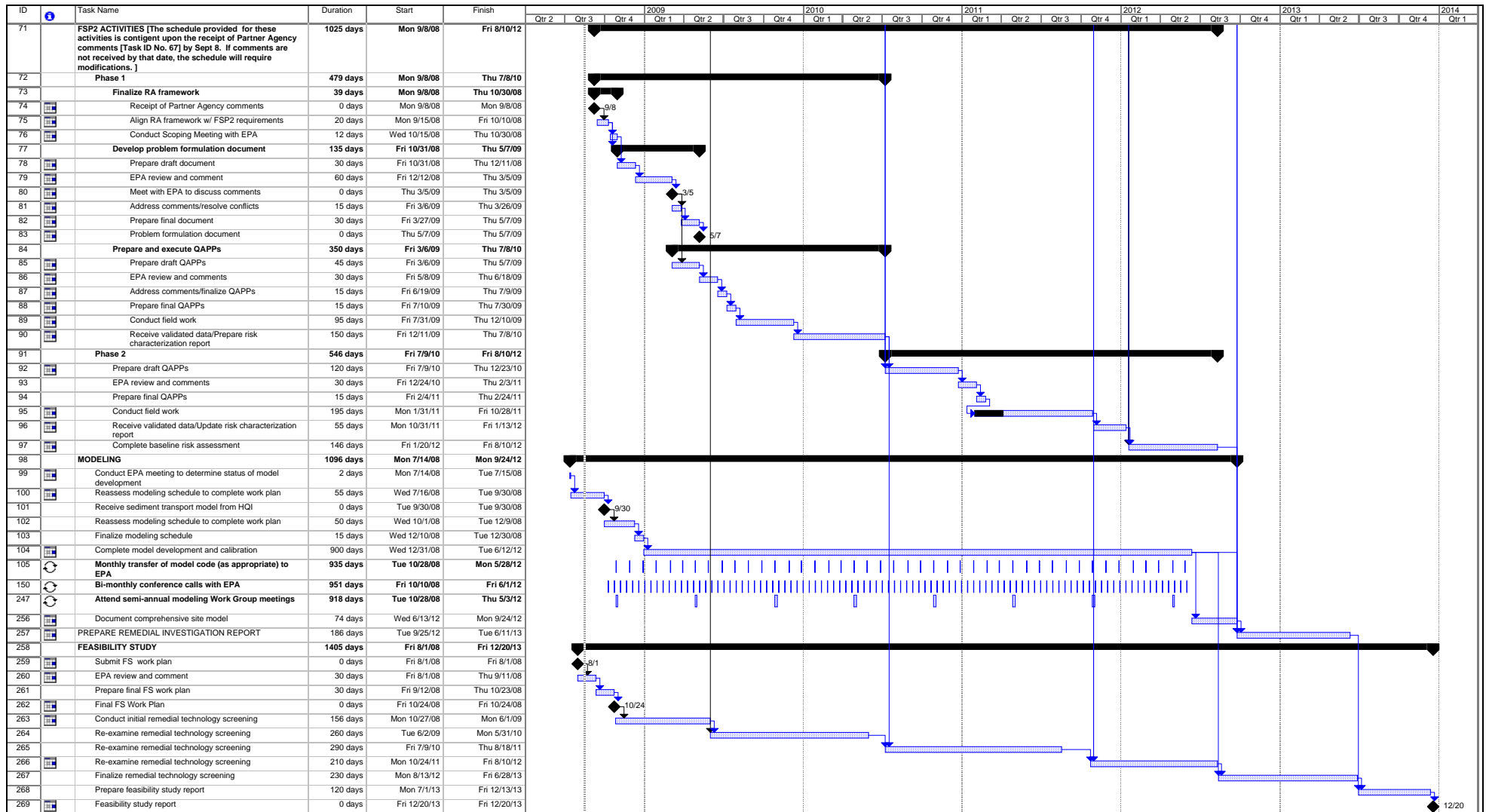
Attachment: RI/FS Program Schedule

cc: Sarah Flanagan, EPA Office of Regional Counsel  
William Hyatt, CPG Coordinating Counsel  
Lisa Baron, USACE  
Tim Kubiak, USFWS  
Reyhan Mehran, NOAA  
Janine MacGregor, NJDEP  
Elkins Green, NJDOT  
Dave Nakles, ENSR



Overall LRRP Project Schedule  
(May 9, 2008 through Dec 31, 2013)  
Date: August 15, 2008





Overall LPRRP Project Schedule  
(May 9, 2008 through Dec 31, 2013)  
Date: August 15, 2008

Task Progress Summary External Tasks Deadline   
Split Milestone Project Summary External Milestone